

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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TAGS: PINT, ML

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT TRAORE ANNOUNCES NEW POLITICAL PARTY

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT TRAORE HAS ANNOUNCED A NEW POLITICAL PARTY WHICH PROMISES TO BE BROAD-BASED BUT CENTRALLY DIRECTED. PARTY STATUTES SUGGEST THAT THE MALIAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WILL BE REVIVED. THE PRESIDENT HAS NOT INDICATED, HOWEVER, WHEN OR HOW THE PARTY WILL ACTUALLY BEGIN TO FUNCTION. END SUMMARY.

1. PARTY ANNOUNCED. MALIAN PRESIDENT MOUSSA TRAORE IN AN INDEPENDENCE EVE ADDRESS TO THE NATION ON SEPT. 21 ANNOUNCED THE PUBLICATION OF STATUTES AND BY-LAWS FOR THE NEW MALIAN POLITICAL PARTY, UNION DEMOCRATIQUE DU PEUPLE MALIEN (UDPM). FORMATION OF THE PARTY WAS, ACCORDING TO THE PRESIDENT, PROOF THAT THE RULING MILITARY COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION WOULD NOT
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QTE CONFISCATE END QTE POWER. THE COMMITTEE'S

OBJECTIVES HAD, SINCE IT TOOK POWER IN 1968, BEEN ESSENTIALLY ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL. CONDITIONS NOW PERMITTED THE COUNTRY TO RETURN TO NORMAL POLITICAL LIFE.

2. GOM DISTRIBUTED STATUES TO DIPCORPS ON SEPTEMBER 21 AND TO PUBLIC ON SEPTEMBER 22. THE PARTY FLAG, A GREEN FIELD EMBLAZONED WITH A RED BUZZARD, WAS IMPLANTED WITH MALIAN FLAG ON THE PRESIDENTIAL DIAS DURING THE INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE. THERE IS, HOWEVER, NOW FURTHER INDICATION AS TO HOW OR WHEN THE PARTY WILL BE ESTABLISHED.

3. PARTY'S PURPOSE. AS OUTLINED IN THE STATUTES, THE UDPM IS BORAD-BASED, HIERARCHALLY ORGANIZED AND CENTRALLY DIRECTED. IT'S PURPOSE IS TO MOBILIZE NATIONAL FORCES TO CONSOLIDATE NATIONAL UNITY AND PROMOTE AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ECONOMY. AS MAJOR OBJECTIVES, THE PARTY SEEKS INTERNALLY, THE EDUCATION OF THE MASSES TO PERMIT THEIR PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL LIFE AT ALL LEVELS AND, EXTERNALLY, INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION BASED ON PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE, NON-ALIGNMENT, CONSTANT SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS, THE ACHIEVEMENT OF AFRICAN UNITY AND THE MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE.

4. STRUCTURE. THE PARTY'S BUILDING BLOCK IS THE COMMITTEE, ONE TO EACH QUARTIER, VILLAGE OR NOMADIC GROUP. THE COMMITTEES ELECT DELEGATES TO SUB-SECTIONS ESTABLISHED AT THE ADMININSTRATIVE LEVEL OF QTE ARRONDISSEMENT END QTE AND THE SUB-SECTIONS ELECT DELEGATES TO SECTIONS GROUPED AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL OF QTE CERCLE END QTE. THE SECTIONS IN TURN DESIGNATE DELEGATES TO THE TRI-ENNIAL NATIONAGACONGRESS WHICH ESTABLISHES THE PARTY PROGRAM AND TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL WHICH PROVIDES INTERIM POLICY GUIDANCE. THE NATIONAL CONGRESS APPOINTS THE MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE OFFICE WHICH COORDINATES AND CONTROLS DAY-TO-DAY ACTIVITIES.

5. DYNAMICS. WHILE THE PARTY APPEARS TO BE STRUCTURED FROM THE GRASS ROOTS UPWARDS, POLICY ANJSDISCIPLINE ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ADMINISTEREDIFROM THE TOP DOWN. DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM IS THE WATCHWORD. THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARTY, PRESUMABLY THE CHIEF OF STATE, IS, ACCORDING TO THE BY-LAWS, THE GUIDE OF THE PARTY WHO SETS THE POLITICAL LINE AND EXECUTES THE PARTY'S PROGRAM. A MAJOR SECTION OF THE STATUTES PRESCRIBES SELF-CRITICISM AND SETS SANCTIONS FOR THOSE WHO WOULD DISCREDIT THE PARTY OR QTE DEMOBILIZE END QTE THE MASSES.

6. CURIOSITIES. THE STATUTES LIST THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT AND DEPUTIES AS MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS, SUGGESTING THAT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND SOME FORM OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT WILL BE REVIVED ALONG WITH THE CREATION OF THE PARTY STRUCTURE. (POLITICAL ACTIVITY ENDED WITH THE MILITARY COUP NOVEMBER 19, 1968.) THE STATUTES MAKE NO MENTION, HOWEVER, OF THE PRIMAL POLITICAL REALITY IN MALI TODAY-THE RULING MILITARY COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION. WHILE SOME COMMITTEE MEMBERS MIGHT TAKE ON A PARTY ROLE, THE PRESIDENT IS THE ONLY MILITARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS SO FAR TO HAVE ANY CLEAR PARTY FUNCTION.

7. COMMENT: PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE PARTY STATUTES WAS ANOTHER SLOW STEP IN THE RETURN TO NORMAL POLITICAL LIFE WHICH THE MILITARY COMMITTEE PROMISED WHEN IT TOOK POWER NEARLY EIGHT YEARS AGO. THERE IS NO INDICATION YET AS TO WHEN THE PRESIDENT WILL CONVENE THE FIRST PARTY CONGRESS OR WHO WILL BE THE PARTY LEADERS. END COMMENT.
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